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Fulbright Hits Pentagon Policy Role

Washington, Oct. 24 (UPI)—Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) said today that the "tremendous power" of the Defense Department must not be allowed to dominate the nation's foreign policy, including its strategy in Viet Nam.

He tied the department's growing influence to two main factors—the persuasiveness of Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, and the money it controls.

Includes CIA

Congress seems to give the department everything it asks, said Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "We take their enormous appropriation requests on faith," he observed in

a television interview on the program Meet the Press.

Fulbright listed the Central Intelligence Agency, with the Department, as an example of a government agency expanding beyond what he considered its normal function.

He said both the Defense Department and the CIA "have a very great role in determining" policy in Viet Nam.

He Expects Johnson

Fulbright termed McNamara a "very fine and efficient administrator" but said he was a "very persuasive" man who helped make the Defense Department a strong influence on the nation's policy planners.

But Fulbright was quick to point out that President Johnson was not a man who was dominated by any adviser. The President is too powerful a man for that, he said.

Meantime, former Secretary of State Dean Acheson compared the fighting in Viet Nam with the Korean War, saying "our efforts in both cases are the same."

Acheson also, in a television interview on the program Issues and Answers, discounted the effectiveness of demonstrations protesting against U.S. involvement in Viet Nam. "I don't think they are dangerous at all," he said.